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INFORMATION REPORT

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Frontier Guard Troops

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PLACE **ACQUIRED**

A reorganization of the Rumanian Frontier Guard Troops, which part of the MAI (Interior Ministry Troops), was begun late in The officers, noncommissioned officers, and troops who were performing frontier guard duty at that time and who were considered unreliable or of doubtful loyalty were withdrawn from the frontier area and sent to reeducation companies. Here they were screened and subjected to a thorough political indoctrination.

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- all officers and noncommissioned 2. In the beginning officers who were posted along the frontier were either members of the Rumanian Workers Party, or UTM members (Youth Labor Union). The Rumanian-Yugoslav frontier from Beba Veche to Cetatea northeast of Calafat is guarded by the newly organized Frontier Guard Division, which has its headquarters in Lugoj. This is the only division which was created at the time of the reorganization. The division consists of the following regiments, each of which consists of three battalions, one engineer company, and one reeducation company:
 - 3 Frontier Guard Regiment, Oravita, patrols the sector Stamora Moravita to Socol.
 - 4 Frontier Guard Regiment, Timisoara, patrols from Beba Veche to the I May post, located west of Stamora Moravita.
 - 9 Frontier Guard Regiment, Turnul Severin patrols from Socol to Cetatea. (Some of the patrols of this Regiment guard sectors which exceed eight kms in length along the Danube.)

There is also a Frontier Guard Artillery Regiment and an artillery training center at Lugoj. The infantry training center of the Frontier

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Guard Troops is at Caransebes.

- 3. Every frontier guard battalion consists of eight autonomous sections. There are no frontier guard companies. Each section is made up of 80 86 men, two officers (a commander and his deputy), and one noncommissioned officer for administrative matters. Half of the troops are armed with old Rumanian ZB rifles and half with Soviet temmy guns. Each section has 12 light machine guns and two heavy machine guns.
- 4. The Frontier Guard Troops patrol a strip along the frontier about one to two kilometers wide. The rest of the frontier zone, to a depth of about 30 kms is guarded by the Assault Battalions of the MAI Troops. It is not known whether these battalions are numbered. They are located at Oravita, Resita, Moldova Veche, Deta, Lovrin and Sanicolaul Mare.
- 5. In places where there are no natural hindrances along the frontier the following obstacles have been erected from the frontier towards the interior in the order in which they are listed:
 - a. Barbed wire fences in three, four or six rows, depending on the terrain.
 - b. Mine fields 10-15 meters wide. In this area especially in spots which are more easily accessible to the border, flares are placed in such a way as to go off when any of the attached wires are touched.
 - c. A stretch of plowed and harrowed land about 10-15 meters wide.
 - d. A strip of cultivated land about 500 meters wide. (On this strip peasants may cultivate only low growing crops, since corn, wheat, sunflower. et cetera, would afford hiding places for illegal border crossers.)
 - e. There are some watch towers along the frontier, but they are manned only in the daytime.
- 6. Peasants who own and cultivate land in the vicinity of the border must report each morning to the nearest frontier post when they reach their fields, leave their identity papers there and pick them up again in the evening before returning home.